

Stewardship Plans for West Valley, Guadalupe, and Lower Peninsula Watershed areas of Santa Clara County

Santa Clara Valley Water District



A segment of the restored Guadalupe Creek with a lowered floodplain, stabilized banks, and native plantings.

Purpose

Develop a comprehensive stewardship plan to achieve protection, enhancement, and restoration of natural resources in each of the three watersheds within the Santa Clara Basin.

Project Goals

- Provide a strategic approach for watershed management.
- Pursue the District's stewardship responsibilities.
- Create a systematic and dynamic tool for project ranking and basis for budgeting.
- Identify high-priority projects requiring outside funding assistance.

Award Amount
\$700,000

Watershed
West Valley, Guadalupe, and Lower Peninsula Watersheds

County
Santa Clara County

CALFED Region
Bay Region

Legislative Districts
US Congress: 14, 15, and 16
State Assembly: 27 and 28
State Senate: 11 and 15

Benefits to the CALFED Program

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) is demonstrating its commitment to a holistic watershed approach to its management activities. It is providing increased flood protection in a way that also protects and enhances local streams and is becoming more engaged in efforts to clean and protect riparian habitats. The District provides flood protection through maintenance of 700 miles of creeks and rivers and is involved in local public education. This project furthers CALFED Program goals by supporting stewardship of local streams and waterways to restore and enhance the local ecosystem, implementing programs to protect and improve water quality, and developing a multi-objective planning process for flood protection programs.

Project Overview

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) is Santa Clara County's wholesale drinking water supply manager. It coordinates flood protection for many of its 1.7 million residents and supports the stewardship of the county's more than 700 miles of streams. This project develops Stewardship Plans for three watershed areas within the District's jurisdiction—West Valley, Guadalupe, and Lower Peninsula Watersheds.

Each plan provides a strategic approach to achieve the District's responsibilities within a given watershed. The plans provide an opportunity to translate complex watershed management issues into coordinated, achievable, and acceptable measures to improve effectiveness and efficiency on a watershed-by-watershed basis. The plans involve:

- developing community-based visions, goals, and objectives;
- identifying and prioritizing projects and programs within a watershed;
- developing outreach strategies; and
- developing timelines for implementation of projects and programs.

The models for these stewardship plans are the Coyote Watershed Stream Stewardship Plan developed by the District and Santa Clara Basin's Watershed Management Planning process. The major elements of the plans are an outreach strategy, existing conditions description, vision, goals and objectives, programs and projects, policies, performance measures, prioritization criteria, resources and timelines, and feedback mechanisms. The tools developed in these planning processes foster coordination, collaboration, and cooperation among resource agencies, community groups, and landowners in each of the three watershed areas.



Coastal Cleanup Day, fall 2003.

Contact Information

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